

## CLAIMS

1. A screening method for a prophylactic and therapeutic substance for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which is characterized by using the protein or salts thereof.
2. A screening method for a prophylactic and therapeutic substance for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which is characterized by using the protein or salts thereof.
3. The screening method according to claim 1, wherein the protein has the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. The screening method according to claim 1, wherein the disease is a renal disease.
5. The screening method according to claim 4, wherein the renal disease is an Egr-1 depending renal disease.
6. The screening method according to claim 4, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.
7. The screening method according to claim 1, which is characterized by comparing production of a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the case where a cell is cultivated that has the capability of producing a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that and the case where a cell is cultivated that has the capability of producing a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that

represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the presence of a test compound.

8. The screening method according to claim 1, which is characterized by comparing  
an activity of a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same  
amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the presence of and in the  
5 absence of a test compound.

9. The screening method according to claim 8, wherein the activity is a binding  
activity to the polynucleotide, to which the protein or salts thereof comprising the same or  
substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 are  
capable of binding.

10 10. The screening method according to claim 8, wherein the activity is an  
expression-controlling activity of a gene under the control of transcriptional control by a  
protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence  
as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. The screening method according to claim 1, which is characterized by measuring  
15 and comparing production of a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially  
the same amino acid sequences as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and a binding  
activity to a polynucleotide, to which the protein or salts thereof is capable of binding,  
using the polynucleotide and an antibody against the protein or salts thereof in the case  
where a cell is cultivated that has the capability of producing the protein or salts thereof  
20 and the case where the cell is cultivated in the presence of a test compound.

12. A compound or salts thereof obtained by the screening method according to claim  
1.

13. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diseases associated with a protein or

salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises a compound or salts thereof obtained by the screening method according to claim 1.

14. A screening method for a prophylactic and therapeutic substance for diseases  
5 associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which is characterized by using a polynucleotide comprising a base sequence or a partial sequence thereof encoding a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

10 15. A screening method for a prophylactic and therapeutic substance for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which is characterized by using a polynucleotide comprising a base sequence or a partial sequence thereof encoding a protein or salts thereof comprising the amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID  
15 NO: 1.

16. The screening method according to claim 14, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a base sequence or a partial sequence thereof represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 4.

17. The screening method according to claim 14, wherein the disease is a renal  
20 disease.

18. The screening method according to claim 17, wherein the renal disease is an Egr-1 depending renal disease.

19. The screening method according to claim 17, wherein the renal disease is diabetic

nephropathy.

20. The screening method according to claim 14, which is characterized by comparing the level of RNA encoding a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the case where a cell is cultivated that has the capability of producing a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and the case where a cell is cultivated that has the capability of producing a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the presence of a test compound.

21. A compound or salts thereof obtained by the screening method according to claim 14.

22. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises a compound or salts thereof obtained by the screening method according to claim 14.

23. An antibody against a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

24. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises the antibody according to claim 23.

25. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises a polynucleotide having a complementary

base sequence to the base sequence encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, or its partial sequence.

26. A diagnostic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof  
5 comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises the antibody according to claim 23.

27. A diagnostic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises a polynucleotide having the base sequence or its partial  
10 sequence encoding a protein comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

28. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diseases associated with a protein or salts thereof comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as that represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, which is characterized by comprising a polynucleotide  
15 having a base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6.

29. The prophylactic and therapeutic product according to claim 28, wherein the disease is a renal disease.

30. The prophylactic and therapeutic product according to claim 29, wherein the renal disease is an Egr-1 depending renal disease.

20 31. The prophylactic and therapeutic product according to claim 29, wherein the renal disease is diabetic nephropathy.

32. A prophylactic and therapeutic product for diabetic nephropathy comprising a suppressor of Egr-1.

33. The prophylactic and therapeutic product according to claim 32, wherein the suppressor of Egr-1 is a suppressor of renal Egr-1.

34. A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic nephropathy in a mammal, which is characterized by administering a suppressor of Egr-1 to the mammal.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein the suppressor of Egr-1 is a suppressor of renal Egr-1.

36. Use of a suppressor of Egr-1 for the manufacture of a prophylactic and therapeutic product for diabetic nephropathy.

37. The use according to claim 36, wherein the suppressor of Egr-1 is a suppressor of  
10 renal Egr-1.